

second converging section, the first and second filtering portions being positioned closer to each other than the first and second anchoring portions, and the anchoring portions being formed on first and second opposite portions of the vessel filter.

9. (Amended) A surgical apparatus comprising a vessel filter having a first portion, a second portion and an intermediate portion between the first and second portions, the first portion increasing in diameter from the intermediate portion towards a first end, and the second portion increasing in diameter from the intermediate portion towards a second end, a region closer to the intermediate portion forming a filter portion and a region further from the intermediate portion forming an anchoring portion, wherein elements of the anchoring portion extend radially distally in a first direction and bend back to extend proximally in a second direction.

Please cancel claims 14-18 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add the following claims:

19. (New) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the filter further comprises a plurality of anchoring members spaced from a proximalmost and distalmost end of the filter.

20. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first and second filtering portions converge and are retained by a sleeve.

21. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the filter comprises a retaining sleeve at the first converging section and a retaining sleeve at the second converging section.

22. (New) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the anchoring members have opposing sharpened ends.

23. (New) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the anchoring portion converges at a first end to form a first converging section and at a second end to form a second converging section.

24. (New) The apparatus of claim 23, further comprising a retention member at the first converging section and a retention member at the second converging section.